

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 NEW DE 09163 091403Z

70

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-02 PRS-01 INR-07 (ISO) W

----- 120705

R 091150Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9821

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 9163

USIAC

STATE FOR NEA

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: PRESS CENSORSHIP IN INDIAN NEWSPAPERS

BEGIN SUMMARY: MOST NEW DELHI DAILIES JULY 9 FRONT-PAGED THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA STAND ON PRESS CENSORSHIP IN THE COUNTRY. THERE WERE TWO MAJOR STORIES, ONE BASED ON MRS. GANDHI'S INTERVIEW WITH CURRENT, A BOMBAY WEEKLY, AND THE OTHER BASED ON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING V.C. SHUKLA'S ADDRESS TO MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT ATTACHED TO HIS MINISTRY. END SUMMARY.

1. FOUR MAJOR PAPERS CARRIED MRS. GANDHI'S REMARKS IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE EDITOR OF CURRENT THAT THERE WAS A NEED TO EVOLVE "CERTAIN CODES OF CONDUCT" FOR THE PRESS AND ENSURE THEY ARE FOLLOWED. TYPICAL HEADLINE: "CODES OF CONDUCT FOR PRESS URGED" (TIMES OF INDIA).

2. BASED ON UNITED NEWS OF INDIA DISPATCHES, STORY QUOTED MRS. GANDHI THAT SHE DID NOT THINK CENSORSHIP WAS THE ONLY WAY TO PREVENT "ATTEMPTS BY SECTIONS OF THE PRESS TO SUPPRESS TRUTH AND FACTS IN THE PRE-EMERGENCY DAYS" AND THAT THE PRESS ITSELF SHOULD SEE TO IT.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 NEW DE 09163 091403Z

3. WHEN TOLD THAT NEWSPAPERS WHICH HAVE BEEN AWARE OF THE SITUATION SHOULD NOT BE PENALISED, MRS. GANDHI SAID "I HOPE SOMETHING WILL BE WORKED OUT."

4. OTHER DAILIES CARRIED MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING V C SHUKLA'S STATEMENT THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE BETWEEN PAPERS BELONGING TO THE OPPOSITION AND OTHERS IN APPLYING CENSORSHIP REGULATIONS. TYPICAL HEADLINE: "CENSORSHIP RULES BEING APPLIED UNIFORMLY" (STATESMAN).

5. BASED ON PRESS TRUST OF INDIA WIRESERVICE, REPORTS QUOTED SHUKLA AS SAYING "BROAD GUIDELINES OF CENSORSHIP WERE THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT LIKE PUBLICATION OF BASELESS RUMORS AND SUCH ITEMS AND VIEWS WHICH MIGHT CAUSE DISAFFECTION AND ENCOURAGE INDISCIPLINE AMONG PUBLIC SERVANTS AND MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES."

6. SHUKLA ALSO TOLD THE MEETING THAT IT HAD BEEN MADE CLEAR TO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FOREIGN PRESS THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT ALLOW VIOLATION OF CENSOR RULES UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES AND WOULD TAKE FIRM ACTION AGAINST THOSE WHO IGNORE THEM.

7. NATIONAL HERALD FRONTPAGED OWN STORY "STEPS AGAINST IRRESPONSIBLE PRESS NEEDED -- "AIL SINGH" QUOTING THE PUNJAB CHIEF MINISTER THAT THE TIME HAD COME TO PUT SOME RESTRAINTS TO CHECK THE MISGUIDED POLICIES OF THOSE NEWSPAPERS WHICH BELIEVED IN GIVING SENSATIONAL AND DISTORTED NEWS. HEMSING

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CENSORSHIP, THE PRESS, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NEWDE09163
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750237-0792
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750773/aaaacmxu.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hartledg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAR 2003 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <22 JAN 2004 by hartledg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS CENSORSHIP IN INDIAN NEWSPAPERS BEGIN SUMMARY: MOST NEW DELHI DAILIES JULY 9 FRONT-TAGS: PINS, IN, (GANDHI, INDRA)
To: USIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006